

***Gelechia senticetella* Stdgr. (Lep.: Gelechiidae) in Hertfordshire**

During one of my regular visits south to my parental home in Datchworth, Hertfordshire, I took the opportunity, as one does, to run a moth trap overnight, on the 31 July 2000. The weather on this occasion proved ideal for light trapping and a 125W mercury vapour bulb mounted on a tripod over a sheet was run for most of the night.

Towards midnight, a small well-marked gelechiid moth was found on the sheet. Its greyish-fawn coloured forewing streaked, in portions, with dark blackish-fuscous was quite distinctive, but different from any gelechiid I had previously encountered. It was duly set and subsequent checks revealed it to be *Gelechia senticetella*. Discussion with Colin Plant, the Hertfordshire moth recorder, confirmed that this was new record for Hertfordshire for this relatively recent addition to the British list. The rural garden where the trap was operated contained a few well-established conifers and planted juniper occurred nearby in adjacent gardens.

The tally for the night came to over 140 species (roughly half and half micros and macros), but this included a few larval leaf-mining micro records made before darkness. Other notable moths for the evening included *Nemapogon clematella* (Fabr.), *Caloptilia alchimiella* (Scop.), *Cnephasia pasiuana* (Hubn.), *Zeiraphera griseana* (Hubn.) and *Grapholita (Cydia) funebrana* (Treits.) all of which have not been recorded in the county for some time.

I would like to thank Colin Plant for supplying information relating to the status of the moths mentioned above.—STEPHEN PALMER, 137 Lightfoot Lane, Fulwood, Preston, Lancs PR4 0AH.

***Meganola albula* (D.&S.) (Lep.: Nolidae) recurs in North Hampshire**

On 23 July 1997 a specimen of *Meganola albula* flew to my moth trap here, apparently the first record for VC12 since 1967, when the species was seen at St Mary Bourne and Micheldever. To find a north-eastern occurrence, however, one has to go back to 1954 at Whitehill, which is quite close to Selborne. These long gaps in time are surprising since the foodplant, *Rubus caesius* (Dewberry), grows in this area (*teste* Stephen Povey, pers. comm.). After photographing the moth I released it but there has been no further recurrence. Over long periods without any records one can perhaps consider that absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. Another possibility would be migration.—ALASDAIR ASTON, Wake's Cottage, Selborne, Hampshire GU34 3JH.